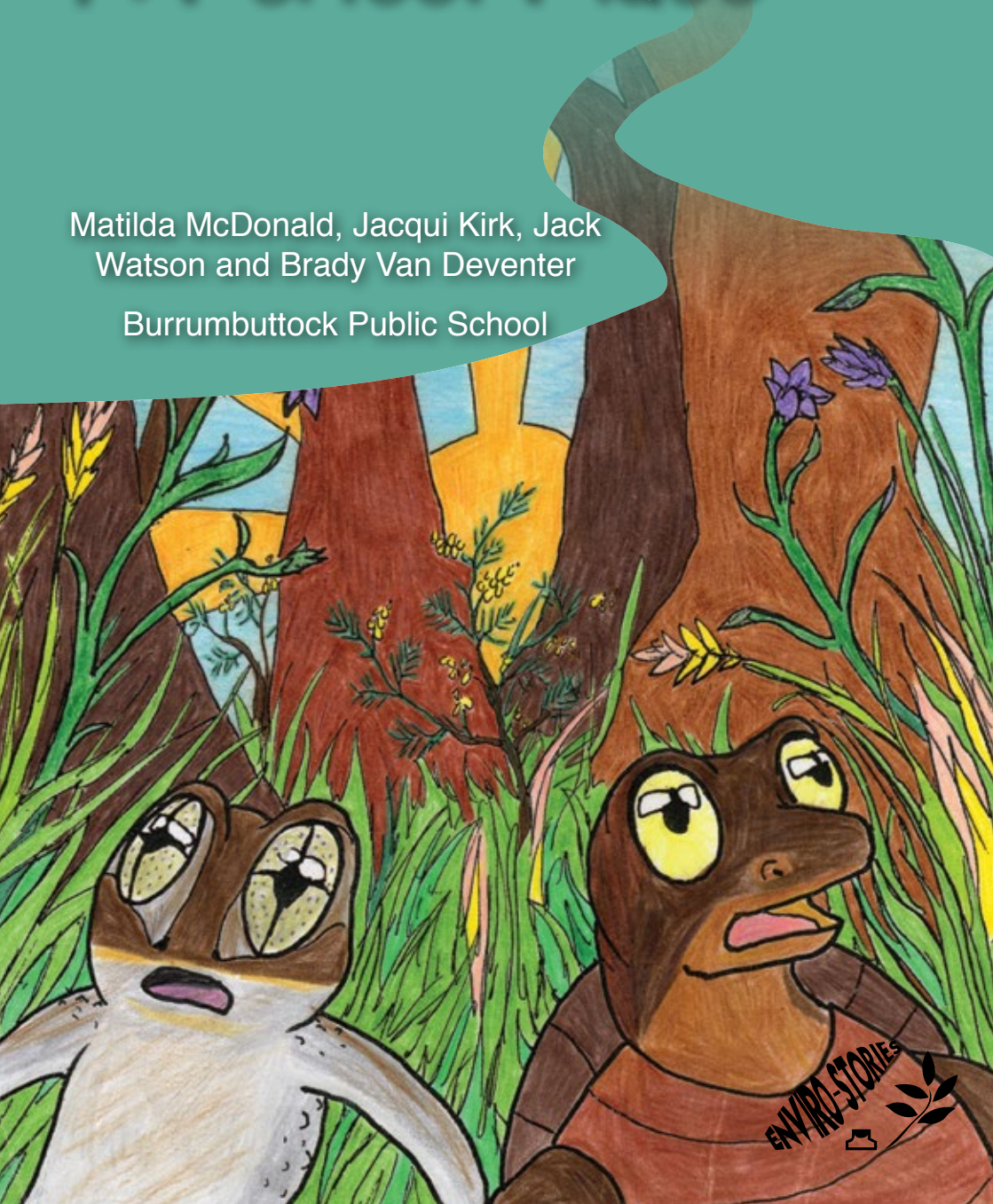


# A Perfect Place

Matilda McDonald, Jacqui Kirk, Jack  
Watson and Brady Van Deventer

Burrumbuttock Public School



ENVIRO-STORIES





Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)**

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

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Authors: Matilda McDonald, Jacqui Kirk, Jack Watson and Brady Van Deventer

Teacher: Owen Dunlop

School: Burrumbuttock Public School

## “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



Catchment Management  
Authority  
Murray



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FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

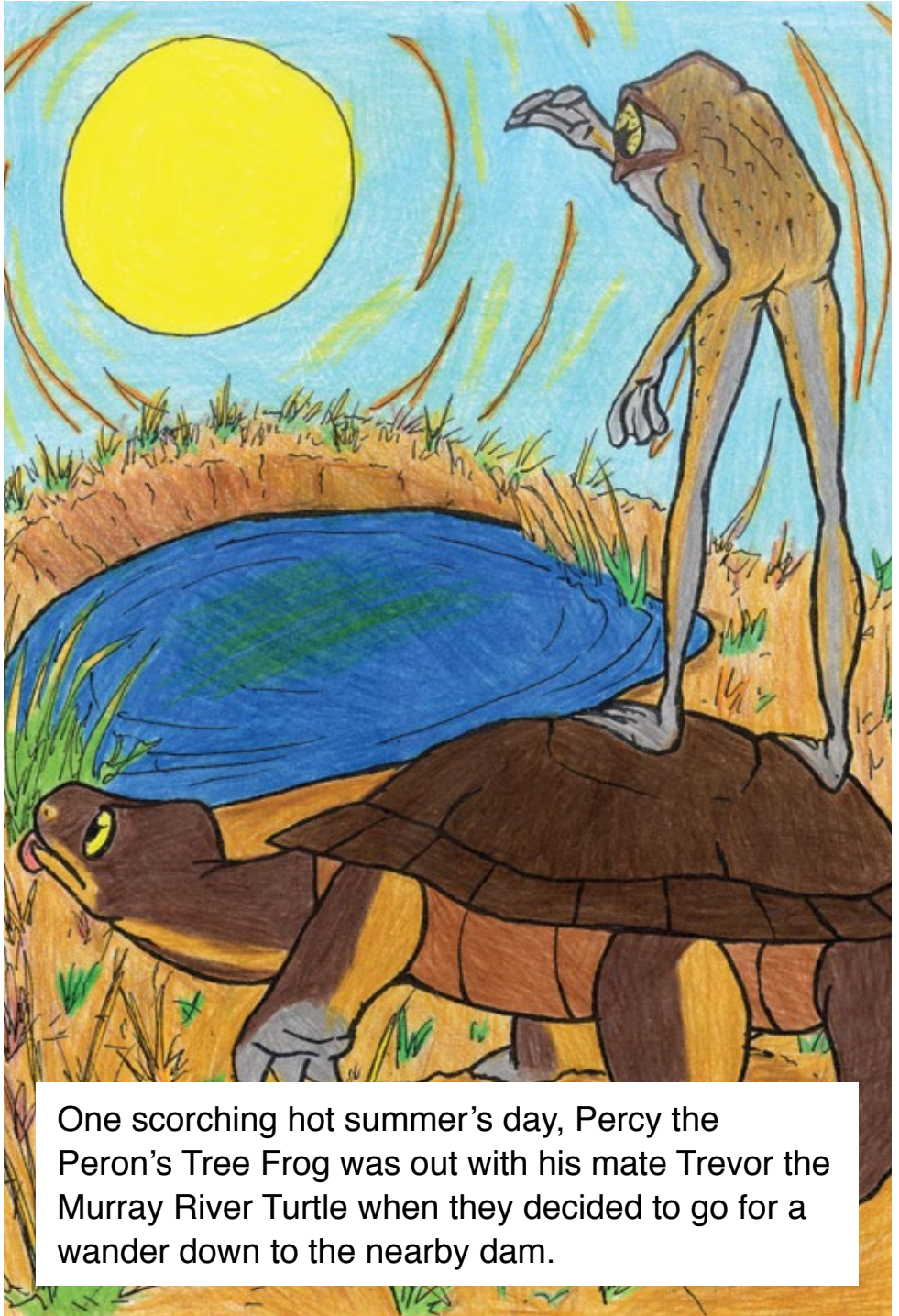


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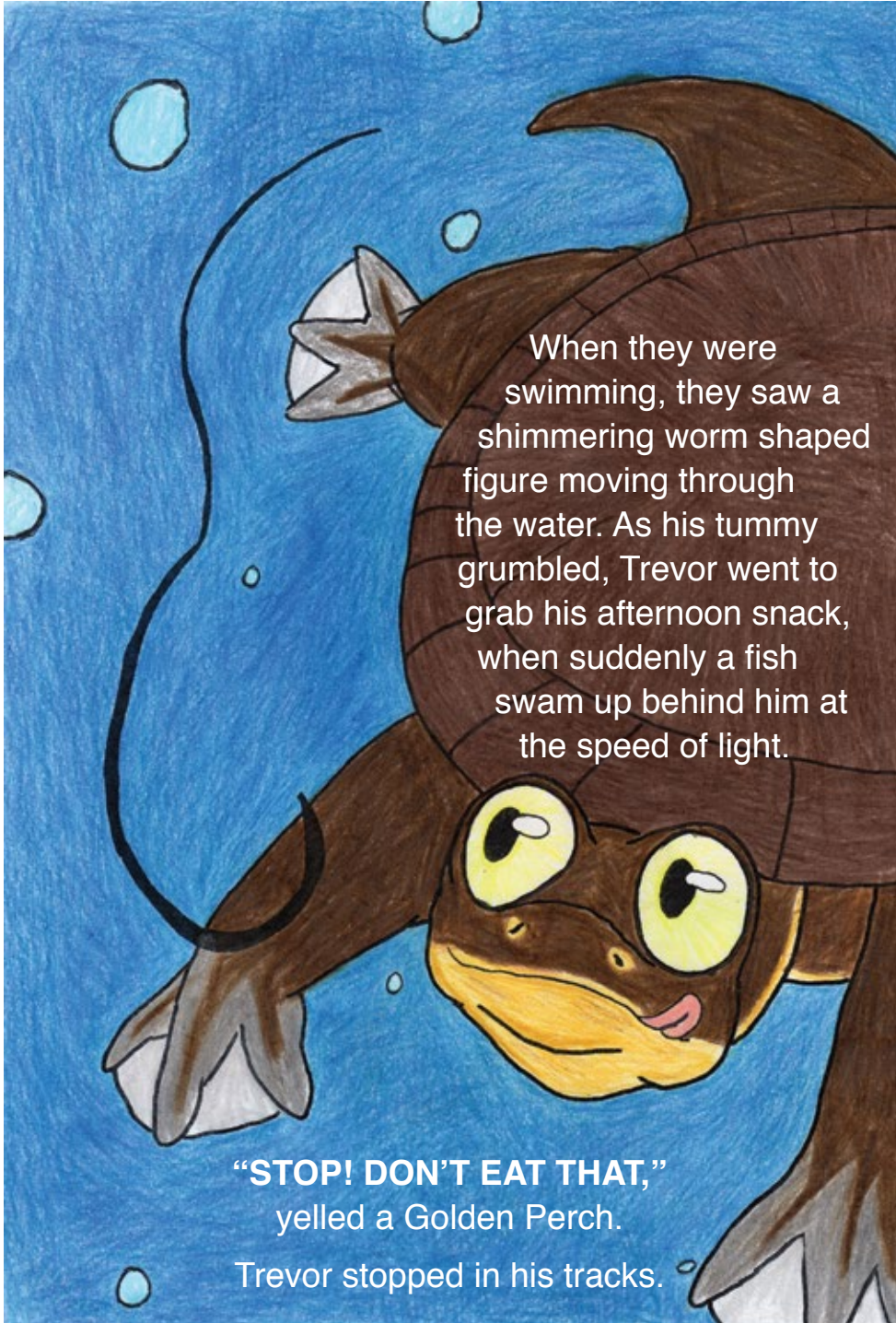


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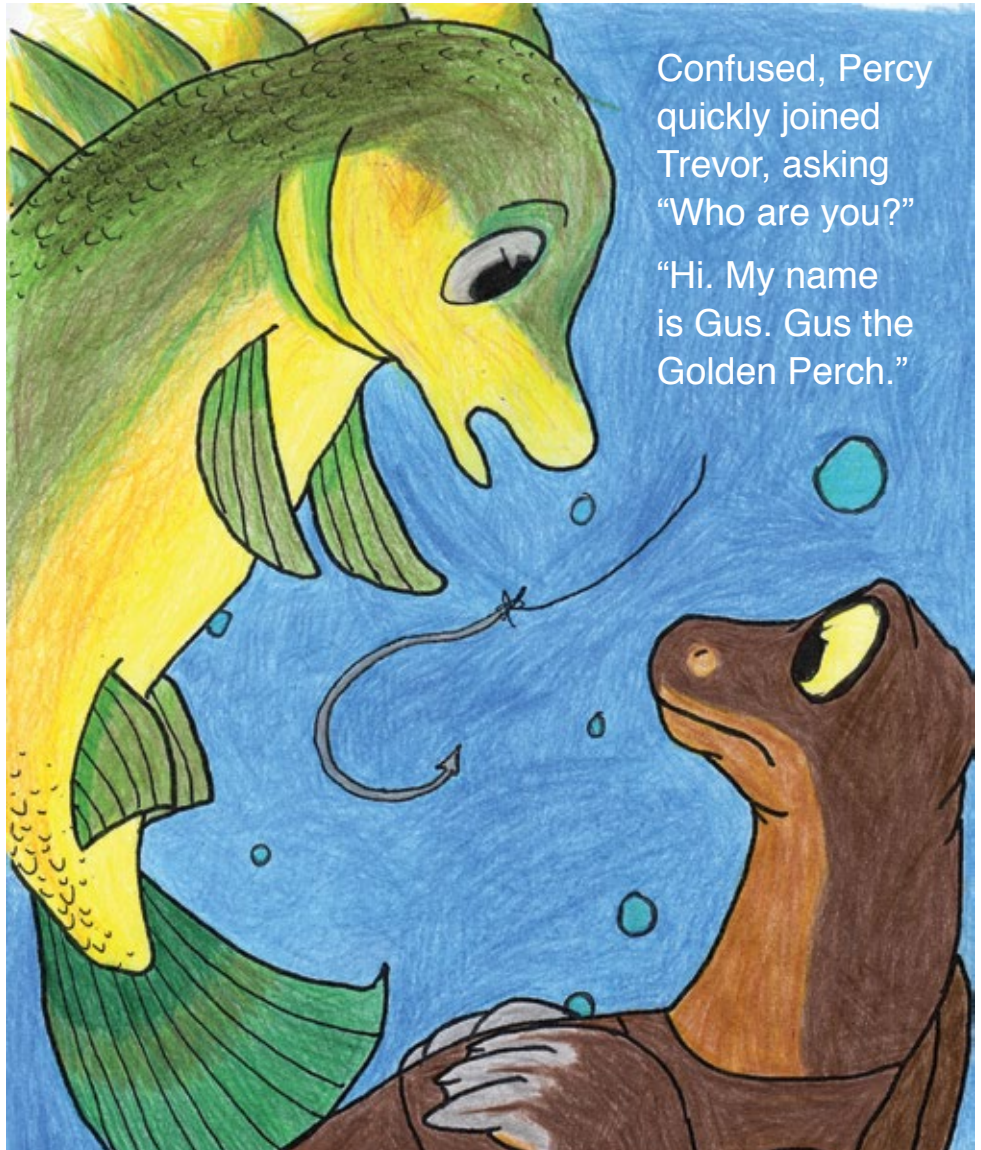


One scorching hot summer's day, Percy the Peron's Tree Frog was out with his mate Trevor the Murray River Turtle when they decided to go for a wander down to the nearby dam.



When they were swimming, they saw a shimmering worm shaped figure moving through the water. As his tummy grumbled, Trevor went to grab his afternoon snack, when suddenly a fish swam up behind him at the speed of light.

**“STOP! DON’T EAT THAT,”**  
yelled a Golden Perch.  
Trevor stopped in his tracks.



Confused, Percy quickly joined Trevor, asking “Who are you?”

“Hi. My name is Gus. Gus the Golden Perch.”

“So Gus, why shouldn’t we eat that? It looks so tasty,” replied Trevor.

“Because, that strange worm you were about to eat is actually a fish hook,” Gus answered.

“Thanks Gus, I could have been hurt,” said Trevor.

Percy and Trevor went on their way, still trying to find some food, when they came across a dead fly. Percy was so hungry, he stuck out his tongue to snatch it when Kate the Kookaburra came out of the blue and landed with a THUD!

“STOP DON’T EAT THAT!” yelled Kate.

“Why not,” asked Percy.

“Because it’s poisoned. I saw some humans spraying fly spray around their picnic just before you arrived,” replied Kate.

“Phew, that was close, thank you for telling us!” thanked Trevor.



Once again Percy and Trevor were on their way, off to find more food. They travelled for what seemed like hours. Both their stomachs were now growling.

“I don’t think my stomach can take this much longer!” exclaimed Percy.

“Neither can mine,” groaned Trevor.







Eventually they reached a side of a road. A car whizzed past. “How are we ever going to cross this road?” said a worried Percy.

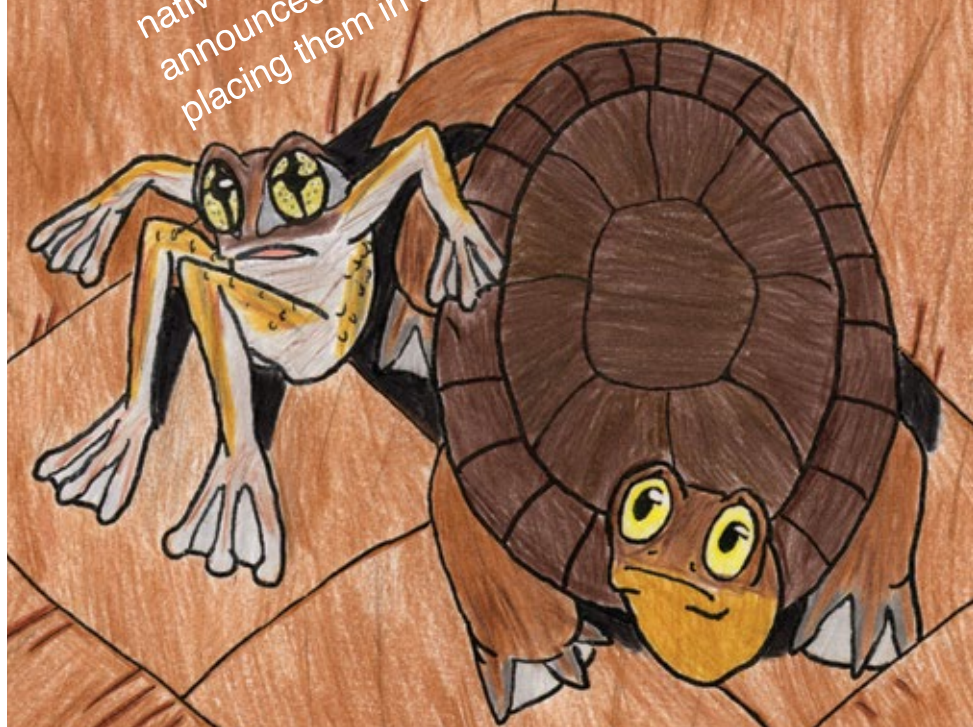
Behind them they heard the sound of a clunky engine coming to a halt. Out hopped two humans.

“What have we got here?” exclaimed Dr Dave.

“It looks to me like a Peron’s Tree Frog and a Murray River Turtle,” replied Stacey, Dr Dave’s assistant.



“Let’s have a closer look.  
We better feed these guys  
and take them back to my  
native garden,” Dr Dave  
announced whilst carefully  
placing them in a box.

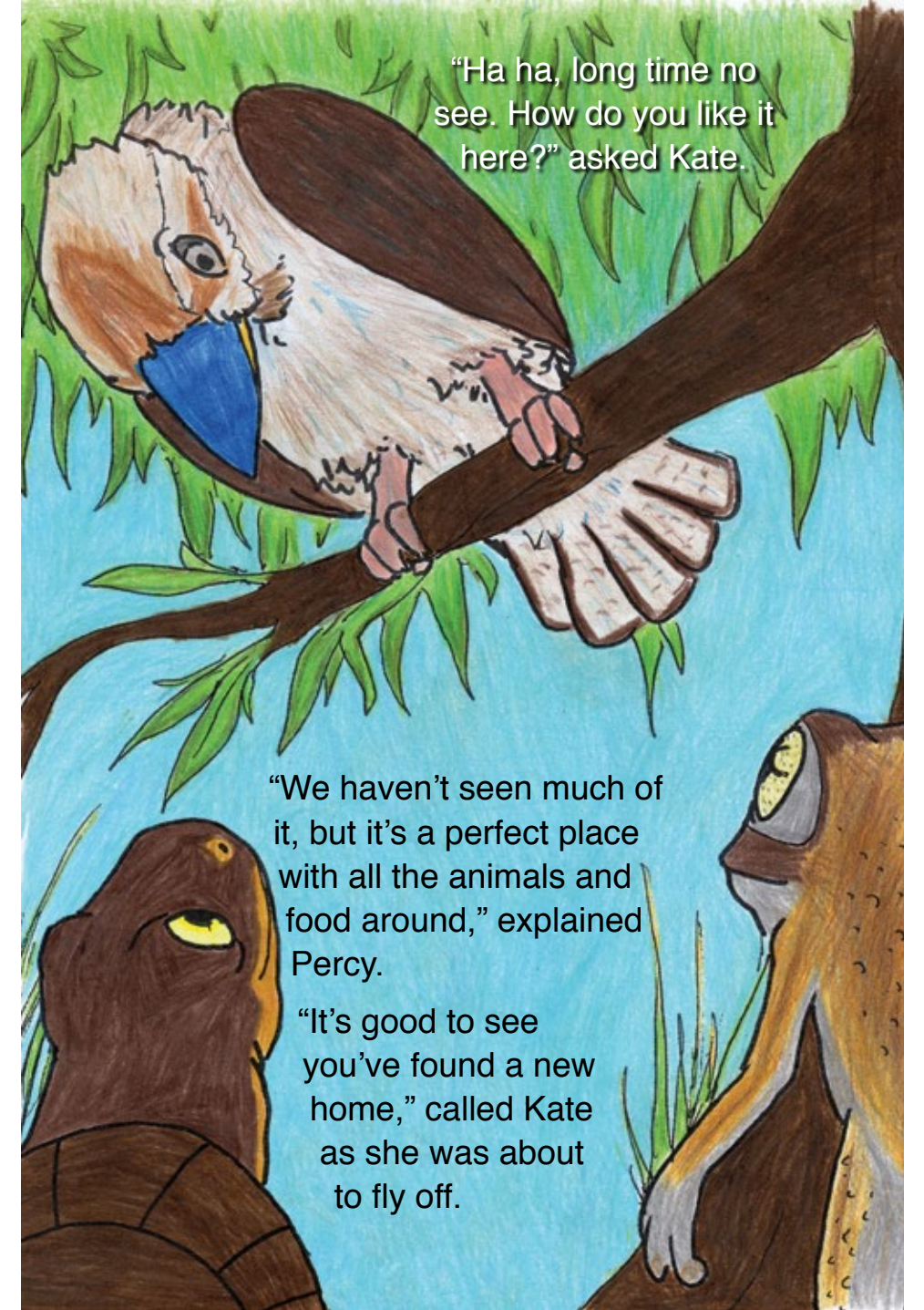




A few days later, when their stomachs were full and they felt much better, Dr Dave released them into his native garden.

They discovered a path that led them to a big dam. There was lots of delicious food there, like mosquitoes and blood worms right near the water's edge. Looking up, Kate the Kookaburra was flying through the air, laughing as she landed.

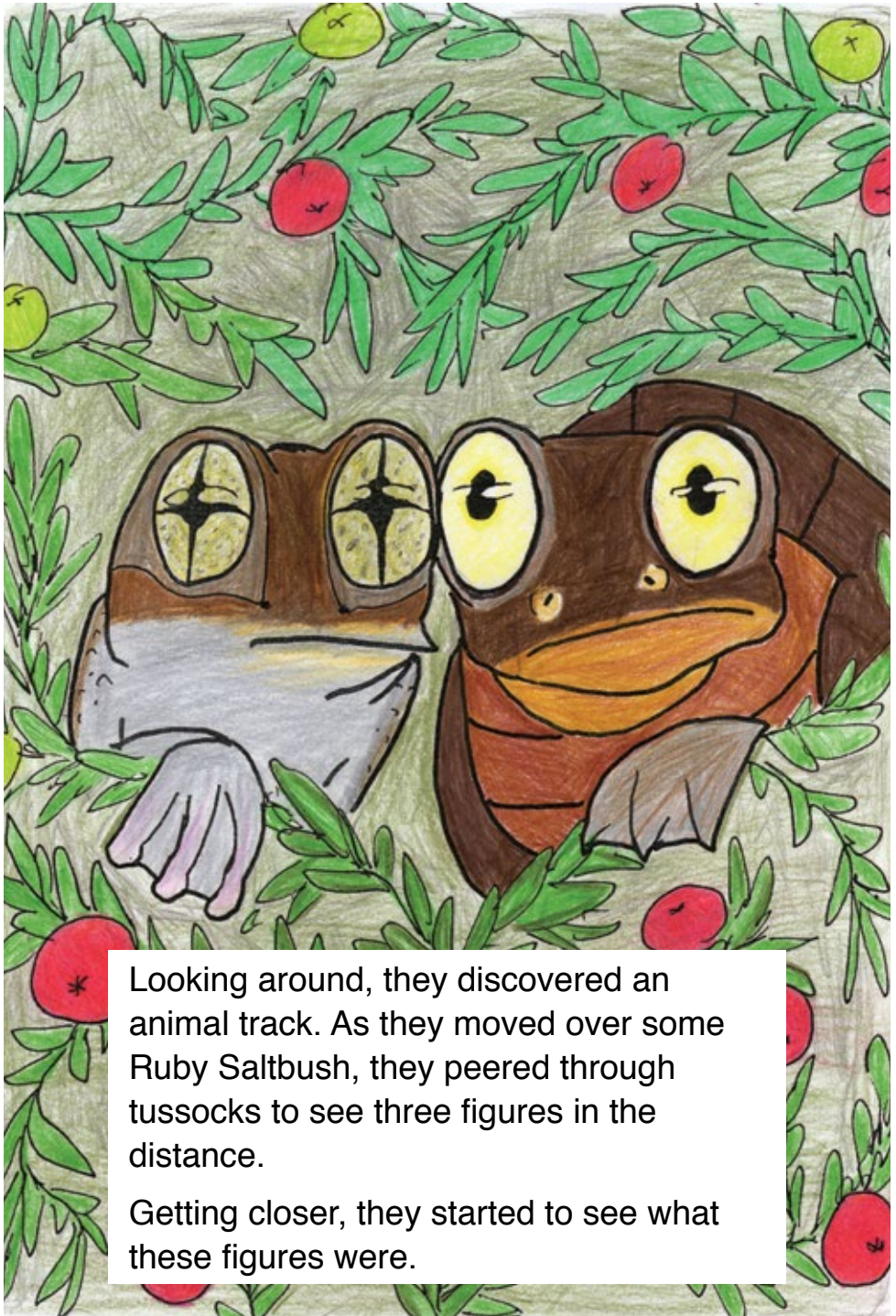




“Ha ha, long time no see. How do you like it here?” asked Kate.

“We haven’t seen much of it, but it’s a perfect place with all the animals and food around,” explained Percy.

“It’s good to see you’ve found a new home,” called Kate as she was about to fly off.



Looking around, they discovered an animal track. As they moved over some Ruby Saltbush, they peered through tussocks to see three figures in the distance.

Getting closer, they started to see what these figures were.



Trevor and Percy looked at each other in amazement with their mouths wide open.

“Welcome to Dr Dave’s Native Garden,” said Sammy the Squirrel Glider.

## **WILD FACTS**

### **Murray River Turtle**

- Male Murray River Turtles have a fatter and longer tail than the females.
- The Murray River Turtle eats molluscs (snails), crustaceans (yabbies) and water plants.
- Murray River Turtles have a short neck and grow to about 30 cm long.
- The character Trevor is based on a Murray River Turtle saved by WIRES. He was cared for and released by Jacqui Kirk and family.

### **Peron's Tree Frog**

- They grow between 30-70 mm long.
- The Peron's Tree Frog eats small insects or invertebrates.
- They also have the ability to change colours quickly.

### **Kookaburra**

- Kookaburras have a life span of 20 years.
- They grow to a size of 30-45 cm.
- Also the kookaburra weighs up to 450 grams.

### **Golden Perch**

- The female Golden Perch can hold up to 500,000 eggs.
- The maximum age of a Golden Perch is 26 years old.
- Golden Perch can be found in warmer, turbid, slow flowing rivers.

For further information about this project and to view Dr Dave DVDs about many of the characters in the story go to: [www.wirraminna.org](http://www.wirraminna.org)



Jack Watson, Brady Van Deventer, Jacqui Kirk  
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2012 Year 6, Burrumbuttock Public School

*Special thanks go to Crystal Kirk for the artwork*

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